

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Attny Docket No.: 23419-058

Craig W. BARNETT et al.

Serial No.: *to be assigned*

Examiner: *to be assigned*

Filing Date: *Herewith*

Art Unit: *to be assigned*

For:

**METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ELECTRONIC DISTRIBUTION
OF PRODUCT REDEMPTION COUPONS**

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR A DECLARATION OF
INTERFERENCE WITH U.S. PATENT NO. 6,076,069**

Dear Sir:

Please amend the continuation application filed herewith as follows:

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

On page 1 and before the section entitled "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION," please insert the following new paragraph:

--This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/425,185, filed April 19, 1995 (status pending).--

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-46 without prejudice.

Please add new claims 47-60:

--47. (New) A system for distributing and redeeming electronic coupons comprising:

a first server system including a computer processor and associated memory, said first server system being connected by a communications channel to a client system, said first server system being adapted for transmitting an electronic coupon to said client system over said communications channel;

said client system including a computer processor and associated memory, said client system being adapted for storing said electronic coupon in said memory;

a second server system connected to said communications channel, said second server system being adapted to establish a connection with said client system and for detecting said electronic coupon stored on said client system, said second server system further being adapted to redeem said electronic coupon.

48. (New) A system according to claim 47 further comprising:

a third server system connected to said communications channel, said third server system being adapted for communicating with said second server system and for authorizing the redemption of said electronic coupon.

49. (New) A system according to claim 47 wherein said second server system is adapted to redeem said coupon as a function of a transaction initiated between said client system and said second server system.

50. (New) A system according to claim 47 wherein said second server system is adapted to redeem said coupon by modifying a transaction initiated between said client system and said second server system.

51. (New) A system according to claim 47 wherein said communications channel includes a network.

52. (New) A system according to claim 47 wherein said communications channel includes a TCP/IP based network and said coupon includes a cookie.

53. (New) A system according to claim 47 wherein said first server system and said second server system are the same server system.

54. (New) The system according to claim 47 wherein said electronic coupon is a token issued under the authority of an issuer for the benefit of said client.

55. (New) The system according to claim 47 wherein said electronic coupon includes data representative of one or more of a serial or identification number, a validation key, an authentication key, an authorizing vendor, a redeeming vendor, a benefit or discount to be associated with a transaction, a level of access granted, and an issuing activity.

56. (New) The system according to claim 47 wherein said electronic coupon includes data representative of the identity of a location at which additional coupon information resides.

57. (New) A method of distributing and redeeming an electronic coupon comprising the steps of:

A) establishing a connection over a communications channel between a client and a server;

B) transferring said electronic coupon from said server to said client;

C) establishing a connection over a communications channel between said client and a subsequent server, said subsequent server including one of said server and other servers;

D) said client requesting information from said subsequent server;

E) said subsequent server recognizing said electronic coupon;

F) said subsequent server redeeming said electronic coupon as a function of a transaction initiated between said client and said subsequent server.

58. (New) A method of distributing and redeeming an electronic coupon according to claim 57 wherein prior to step A, the server receives a request for information from the client.

59. (New) A method of distributing and redeeming an electronic coupon according to claim 57 further comprising the step of:

authenticating said electronic coupon and authorizing a transaction between said client and subsequent server as a function of an authenticated electronic coupon.

60. (New) A method of distributing and redeeming an electronic coupon according to claim 57 further comprising the steps of:

establishing a connection between said subsequent server and an authentication server;
said authentication server authenticating said electronic coupon and authorizing the redemption of said electronic coupon.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-46 have been canceled. Claims 47-60 have been added. No new matter is added by these cancellations or additions. Claims 47-60 are now pending, with claims 47 and 57 being in independent form. Claims 47-60 correspond identically to claims 1-14 of U.S. Patent No. 6,076,069 (the '069 patent) and have been added for the purpose of provoking an interference with that patent.

A. Effective Filing Dates

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/425,185, filed April 19, 1995 (status pending). Thus, the effective filing date of this application is April 19, 1995. The effective filing date of the '069 patent is Sept. 25, 1998.

B. 37 C.F.R. 1.607

Applicants submit the following information as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.607(a)(1)-(a)(5). The '069 patent issued on June 13, 2000. Therefore, claims 47-60 of the present application were pending within one year of the issue date of the '609 patent and no explanation under 37 C.F.R. 1.607(a)(6) is necessary.

(1) Identification of Patent

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.607(a)(1), Applicants request that an interference be declared between the application filed herewith and U.S. Patent No. 6,076,069 (the '069 patent).

(2) Proposed Count

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.607(a)(2), Applicants present the following proposed count, which corresponds identically to claim 47 presented herein and to claim 1 of the '069 patent:

--A system for distributing and redeeming electronic coupons comprising:

a first server system including a computer processor and associated memory, said first server system being connected by a communications channel to a client system, said first server system being adapted for transmitting an electronic coupon to said client system over said communications channel;

said client system including a computer processor and associated memory, said client system being adapted for storing said electronic coupon in said memory;

a second server system connected to said communications channel, said second server system being adapted to establish a connection with said client system and for detecting said electronic coupon stored on said client system, said second server system further being adapted to redeem said electronic coupon.--

(3) Corresponding Claims of the '069 Patent

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.607(a)(3), Applicants identify claims 1-14 of the '609 patent as corresponding to the proposed count.

(4) Corresponding Claims of the Present Application

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.607(a)(4), Applicants identify at least claims 47-60 of the present application as corresponding to the proposed count. Claim 47 corresponds exactly to the proposed count. The remaining claims define the same patentable invention as claim 47 and therefore correspond to the proposed count.

(5) Application of Claims 47-60 to the Specification of the Present Application

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.607(a)(5), Applicants submit the following tables that indicate that claims 47-60 are supported by the specification of the application submitted herewith. The citations therein are exemplary only and not exclusive.

Independent Claim 47 and Dependents

Claim Terms	Exemplary Citations to Specification of Present Application
47. A system for distributing and redeeming electronic coupons comprising: a first server system including a computer processor and associated memory,	Fig. 1, element 2 and/or 16; Page 9, line 27 to page 10, line 25; Page 14, lines 18-28.
said first server system being connected by a communications channel to a client system,	Fig. 1 elements 2, 6, and 16; Fig. 2, element 20; Fig. 7; Fig. 8; Page 9, line 27 to page 10, line 5; Page 11, lines 20-25; Page 14, line 18 to page 15, line 10; Page 15, line 27 to page 16, line 3.
said first server system being adapted for transmitting an electronic coupon to said client system over said communications channel;	Fig. 1; Fig. 7; Fig. 9; Page 9, line 27 to page 10, line 30; Page 15, line 27 to page 16, line 3; Page 19, lines 4-14; Page 21, line 29 to page 22, line 10.
said client system including a computer processor and associated memory,	Fig. 1, element 6; Fig. 2, elements 26 and 28; Page 20, lines 8-22.
said client system being adapted for storing said electronic coupon in said memory;	Fig. 2, element 30 and 30a; Fig. 9; Page 10,, lines 8-13; Page 19, lines 4-14; Page 20, lines 24-28; Page 21, lines 11-15; Page 22, lines 7-10.
a second server system connected to said communications channel, said second server system being adapted to establish a connection with said client system and for detecting said electronic coupon stored on said client system,	FIG. 1, element 2; Fig. 2, element 20; Fig 7; Fig. 8; Fig. 9; Page 10, line 22 to page 11, line 2; Page 26, line 24 to page 27, line 3.
said second server system further being adapted to redeem said electronic coupon.	Fig. 9; Page 10, line 22 to page 11, line 2; Page 26, line 24 to page 27, line 3.
48. A system according to claim 47 further comprising: a third server system connected to said communications channel, said third server system being adapted for communicating with said second server system and for authorizing the redemption of said electronic coupon.	Fig. 1, elements 12 and 13; Page 12, line 26 to page 13, line 2; Page 16, line 12 to page 17, line 14; Page 25, line 29 to page 26, line 12.
49. A system according to claim 47 wherein said second server system is adapted to redeem said coupon as a function of a transaction initiated between said client	Fig. 9; Page 10, line 22 to page 11, line 2; Page 26, line 24 to page 27, line 3.

system and said second server system.	
50. A system according to claim 47 wherein said second server system is adapted to redeem said coupon by modifying a transaction initiated between said client system and said second server system.	Fig. 9; Page 10, line 22 to page 11, line 2; Page 26, line 24 to page 27, line 3.
51. A system according to claim 47 wherein said communications channel includes a network.	Fig. 1; Fig. 7; Fig. 8; Page 14, line 18 to page 15, line 10; Page 30, lines 16-20; Page 31, line 29 to page 32, line 9.
52. A system according to claim 47 wherein said communications channel includes a TCP/IP based network and said coupon includes a cookie.	Page 14, line 28 to page 15, line 1; Page 30, lines 16-20; Page 32, lines 16-20;
53. A system according to claim 47 wherein said first server system and said second server system are the same server system.	Page 26, line 24 to page 27, line 3.
54. The system according to claim 47 wherein said electronic coupon is a token issued under the authority of an issuer for the benefit of said client.	Fig. 1, elements 14 and 16; Page 15, lines 12-18; Page 18, lines 25-28; Page 25, line 29 to page 30, line 12; Page 29, lines 9-12.
55. The system according to claim 47 wherein said electronic coupon includes data representative of one or more of a serial or identification number, a validation key, an authentication key, an authorizing vendor, a redeeming vendor, a benefit or discount to be associated with a transaction, a level of access granted, and an issuing activity.	Fig. 5; Page 12, lines 17-26; Page 16, line 22 to page 17, line 12; Page 25, lines 15-27; Page 31, lines 16-18.
56. The system according to claim 47 wherein said electronic coupon includes data representative of the identity of a location at which additional coupon information resides.	Page 16, lines 27-30.

Independent Claim 57 and Dependents

Claim Terms	Exemplary Citations to Specification of Present Application
57. A method of distributing and redeeming an electronic coupon comprising the steps of: A) establishing a connection over a communications channel between a client and a server;	Fig. 1 elements 2, 6, and 16; Fig. 2, element 20; Fig. 7; Fig. 8; Page 9, line 27 to page 10, line 5; Page 11, lines 20-25; Page 14, line 18 to page 15, line 10; Page 15, line 27 to page 16, line 3.
B) transferring said electronic coupon from said server to said client;	Fig. 1; Fig. 7; Fig. 9; Page 9, line 27 to page 10, line 30; Page 15, line 27 to page 16, line 3; Page 19, lines 4-14; Page 21, line 29 to page 22, line 10.
C) establishing a connection over a communications channel between said client and a subsequent server, said subsequent server including one of said server and other servers;	FIG. 1, element 2; Fig 7; Fig. 8; Fig. 9; Page 10, line 22 to page 11, line 2; Page 26, line 24 to page 27, line 3.
D) said client requesting information from said subsequent server;	Fig. 1 element 2; Fig. 9; Page 10, line 22 to page 11, line 2; Page 26, line 24 to page 27, line 3.
E) said subsequent server recognizing said electronic coupon;	FIG. 1, element 2; Fig. 9; Page 10, line 22 to page 11, line 2; Page 26, line 24 to page 27, line 3.
F) said subsequent server redeeming said electronic coupon as a function of a transaction initiated between said client and said subsequent server.	FIG. 1, element 2; Fig. 9; Page 10, line 22 to page 11, line 2; Page 26, line 24 to page 27, line 3.
58. A method of distributing and redeeming an electronic coupon according to claim 57 wherein prior to step A, the server receives a request for information from the client.	Fig. 9; Page 10, lines 8-10 and lines 27-30; Page 15, line 30 to page 16, line 2; Page 19, lines 11-20; Page 21, line 29 to page 22, line 10.
59. A method of distributing and redeeming an electronic coupon according to claim 57 further comprising the step of: authenticating said electronic coupon and authorizing a transaction between said client and subsequent server as a function of an authenticated electronic coupon.	Fig. 1, elements 12 and 13; Page 12, line 26 to page 13, line 2; Page 16, line 12 to page 17 line 14; Page 25, line 29 to page 26, line 12.
60. A method of distributing and redeeming an electronic coupon according to claim 57 further comprising the steps of: establishing a connection between	Fig. 1, elements 12 and 13; Page 12, line 26 to page 13, line 2; Page 16, line 12 to page 17 line 14; Page 25, line 29 to page 26, line 12.

said subsequent server and an authentication server;	
said authentication server authenticating said electronic coupon and authorizing the redemption of said electronic coupon.	Fig. 1, elements 12 and 13; Page 12, line 26 to page 13, line 2; Page 16, line 12 to page 17 line 14; Page 25, line 29 to page 26, line 12.

CONCLUSION

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request that an interference be declared between the present application and the '069 patent. If the Examiner believes that prosecution of this continuation application might be advanced through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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